

Medicare Outpatient Observation Notices are required in 2017

Category: Medicare Advantage

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Start Date: December 27, 2016 End Date: TBD

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska follows the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidance for the Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON).

Starting Jan. 1, 2017, hospitals and critical access hospitals are required to furnish a MOON to Medicare beneficiaries receiving observation services as an outpatient for more than 24 hours.

The MOON is a standard notice developed to let beneficiaries, including Medicare health plan enrollees, know:

- He or she is an outpatient receiving observation services, not an inpatient of the hospital or critical access hospital
- The reason he or she is an outpatient receiving observation services
- How outpatient observation services affect his or her Medicare cost sharing and coverage for post-hospitalization skilled nursing facility services

The notice must be delivered no later than 36 hours after observation services begin or, if sooner, upon release. Provider compliance with this notification requirement is mandatory.

Standard language for the MOON notice and instructions are [here](#).